

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

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USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 3315

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR., CY, TU

SUBJ: TURKISH MIGRATION INTO NORTHERN CYPRUS

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1. DIFFICULTIES IN ESTIMATING NUMBER OF MAINLAND TURKISH
WORKER/IMMIGRANTS IN NORTHERN CYPRUS POINTED OUT IN REFTTEL
REMAIN. RESTRICTED ACCESS TO IMPORTANT AREAS WHERE MAIN-
LANDERS ARE RUMORED TO BE PRESENT CONTINUES TO BE A MAJOR
PROBLEM AND MAY IN FACT BE AGGRAVATED IF RECENTLY PASSED
"TFSC" LEGISLATIVE RESTRICTIONS ON TRAVEL IN NORTH BY
FOREIGNERS ARE IMPLANTED. (NEW RESTRICTIONS BEING RE-
PORTED BY SEPTTEL.) NEVERTHELESS, ON BASIS OF RECENT OBSER-
VATIONS OF TURKISH-SPEAKING EMBOFF DURING TRIPS TO NORTH,
CONTINUING INFLUX OF MAINLANDERS, AND RECENT DISCUSSIONS
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WITH PRIVATE AND OFFICIAL TURK CYPRIOTS, WE BELIEVE WE CAN
RAISE OUR ESTIMATES OF TURKISH IMMIGRANTS TO MINIMUM OF 9-10,000.

2. TURKISH IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES TALLING AN ESTIMATED 5-7000 PEOPLE HAVE NOW BEEN OBSERVED IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS: KATO VAROSHA (2-3000); MORPHOU (1,000); AYIOS AMVROSIOS (6-800); AKANTHOU (6-800); KYRENIA AREA (4-500); DAVLOS (2-400); KHARCA (100); KALOGREA (100); ARDHANA (100); PHLAMOUDHI (40). ALL THESE PLACES HAVE RECENTLY BEEN VISITED BY EMBOFF WITH EXCEPTION OF DAVLOS AND MORPHOU, ESTIMATES FOR WHICH COME (RESPECTIVELY) FROM RELIABLE BRITISH AND UN SOURCES.

3. RANDOM DISCUSSION WITH IMMIGRANTS INDICATE THAT ALMOST ALL COME FROM CENTRAL, EASTER, AND NORTHERN TURKEY. IN PHLAMOUDHI, FOR EXAMPLE, THE VILLAGE HEADMAN EXPLAINED THAT THEIR GROUP OF 40 HAD ARRIVED JUST TWO DAYS EARLIER FROM TRABZON AND THAT ALL THEIR EXPENSES HAD BEEN PAID FOR BY THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT. NEARLY ALL THOSE WITH WHOM EMBOFF SPOKE INTENDED TO SETTLE PERMANENTLY -- IF ALLAH WILLED IT. SEVERAL VOICED THE THEME THAT THEY WERE HELPING TURKEY TO RECLAIM LANDS WHICH RIGHTFULLY BELONGED TO IT, AND ONE ZEALOUS SETTLER EXHORTED THAT "ATHENS IS OURS TOO."

4. IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW MOST OF THE IMMIGRANTS IN AREAS VISITED BY EMBOFF COULD BE TERMED "SEASONAL." THEY ARE POPULATING VILLAGES AND TOWNS WHICH OTHERWISE WOULD REMAIN EMPTY AND, AS TURKISH OFFICIALS HAVE EXPLAINED, HELPING TO EASE A SEVERE AGRICULTURAL LABOR SHORTAGE. THE "RUB" IS THAT THERE IS NO END IN SIGHT TO THE PRESENT UNSKILLED LABOR SHORTAGE. MOST TURK CYPRIOTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN SETTLED AND RETURNING TURK CYPRIOTS TEND TO BE BUSINESS/CIVIL SERVANT TYPES RATHER THAN FARMERS. THUS, THERE WILL BE A CONTINUING NEED FOR IMMIGRANT LABOR AND A MORE OR LESS PERMANENT POPULATION INCREASE, IF TURKISH ZONE REMAINS AT PRESENT SIZE.

5. PRIVATE AND OFFICIAL TURK CYPRIOTS HAVE IN RECENT DISCUSSIONS NOT TAKEN ISSUE WITH THE ESTIMATE OF 10,000 AND, IN THEIR MORE CANDID MOMENTS, CONTINUE TO EXUDE UNEASINESS OVER THE IMMIGRATION AND ITS IMPLICATIONS. TURK CYPRIOT OPPOSITION LEADER ALPER ORHON ESTIMATES THAT THERE ARE AS MANY AS 10,000 IMMIGRANTS AT PRESENT AND SAID THAT AS
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PLANNING AND COORDINATION MINISTER IN EARLY 1975 HE HAD MADE FIRM ARRANGMENTS TO IMPORT 6,000 LABORERS.

6. IN ADDITION, "TFSC PRESIDENT" DENKTASH HAS BEEN REPORTED IN NOVEMBER 25 GREEK PRESS AS SAYING THAT BETWEEN 7-10,000 PEOPLE OF "CYPRIOT ORIGIN" HAVE RETURNED TO THE ISLAND SINCE THE FIGHTING AND THAT ONLY 800 TURKISH EXPERTS FROM THE MAINLAND AND THEIR FAMILIES HAVE BEEN SETTLED PERMANENTLY. COMMENT: DENKTASH'S FIGURES JIBE WITH OUR OBSERVATIONS AND INFORMATION BUT OFFICIAL LINE THAT THESE PEOPLE ARE OF

CYPRIT ORIGIN MUST BE REGARDED WITH THE GREATEST SKEPTICISM.
IN PRIVATE, TURK CYPRIT OFFICIALS DUTIFULLY PEDDLE THIS
LINE BUT WITH A SMILE AND A TOTAL LACK OF CONVICTION.
WE DOUBT THAT NUMBER OF RETURNING TURK CYPRITS
EXCEEDS 2,500. END COMMENT.

7. WE WILL CONTINUE TO REPORT ON MAINLAND IMMIGRATION AS
NEW INFORMATION IS DEVELOPED.
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